

DCI Notes
1 August 78

REVIEW OF LEBANESE SITUATION

More fighting likely as result of near term issues raised by Jumayyil's determination to take offensive against Syrians & his murder of younger Franjiyah

Not clear we, anyone else, can dampen explosiveness of situation

Scorecard chart -- brings out incompatibilities:

Christians -- Domination --

Unacceptable to Muslims/Palestinians

Either Domination or Partition

Unacceptable to Syrians - Domination - threat or flank -
Partition - Prestige of Assad - '75/'76 objectives

Syrians - Feel compelled control or eliminate Christian militias

Challenge - defeat Syrians
Israelis - Protect northern flank from raids/attacks

See Syrian/Palestinian domination as threat - determined to neutralize

4.5 Directions

1. Negotiation
 2. Partition
 3. Canton
 4. More of same
 5. Renewed fighting
1. Incompatibility - so stark - makes negotiation unlikely

Plus Sarkis gov't too weak - cautious to point of paralysis -
to be catalytic force behind some comprehensive peace plan

Moderate elements less forceful - though if Jumayyil
were murdered in revenge might be less radical pressure

2. Partition could be one result of negotiation - possible long term solution

Possible attractiveness of some form of Palestinian homeland (

Even if could negot - intractable problem of boundaries - Greens/Browns

Compounded by Israeli insistence on Christian buffer zone -

No way to connect to rest

Basic Syrian objection

3. Cantons

Swiss model -

On paper looks good -

Central gov't - defense, for affairs

Cantonal autonomy, including local militia security

Borders difficult

External arbitration?

Probably require imposition by external force (

Who? no likely candidates

Probably degenerate into partition

Syrians see coming

4. More likely - Renewed fighting

Appears likely Christians - at least Bashir Jumayyil - will continue provoke a showdown w/Syrians

Persuaded must get Syrians out

If Assad, as we believe, cannot tolerate this, question is how hard he'll dare strike back at Christian militias w/o fear of stronger Israeli retaliation he can take

What degree Syrian offensive action would bring Is in?

(1) Too great an artillery pounding of Christians -

a. Overflights - movement to border

b. Air strikes - artillery - supply - (

c. Airlift brigade to Beirut

(2) If Christians on verge of massacre

March N - thru UN & Palestinians

Risky -

Casualties

Use US equipment

World opinion

Think Syrians attempt limit amount
direct conflict - hoping some form
mediation - difficult position be
likelihood Is open Golan Front if
full scale hostilities

Overall Syrian mil position better than
'73 in absolute terms - but poorer relative
to Israel

5. About best hope for more of same

Semi-anarchy

Between militias

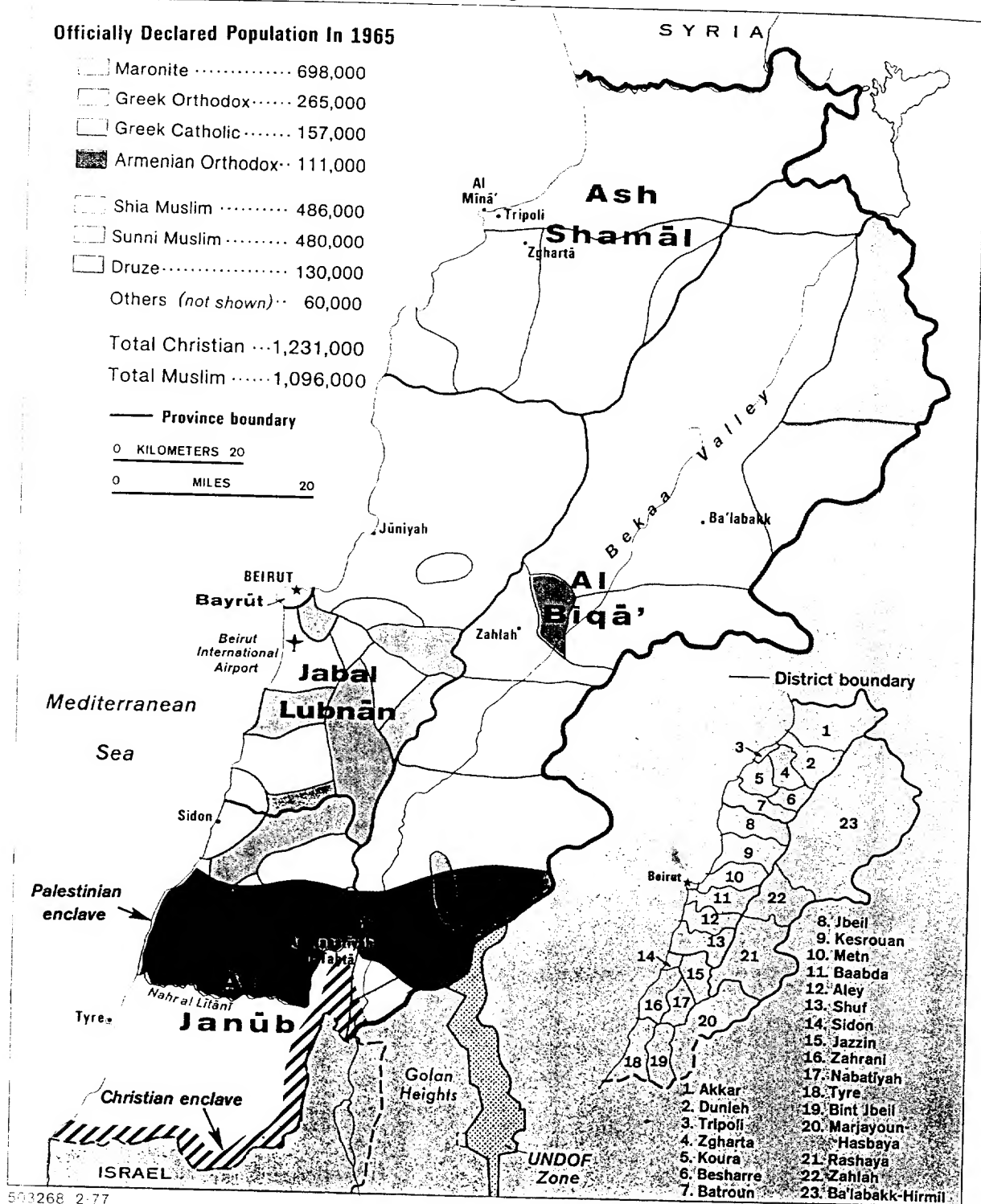
Central gov't too weak to contest

Palestinian state within

Effort rebuild Leb army

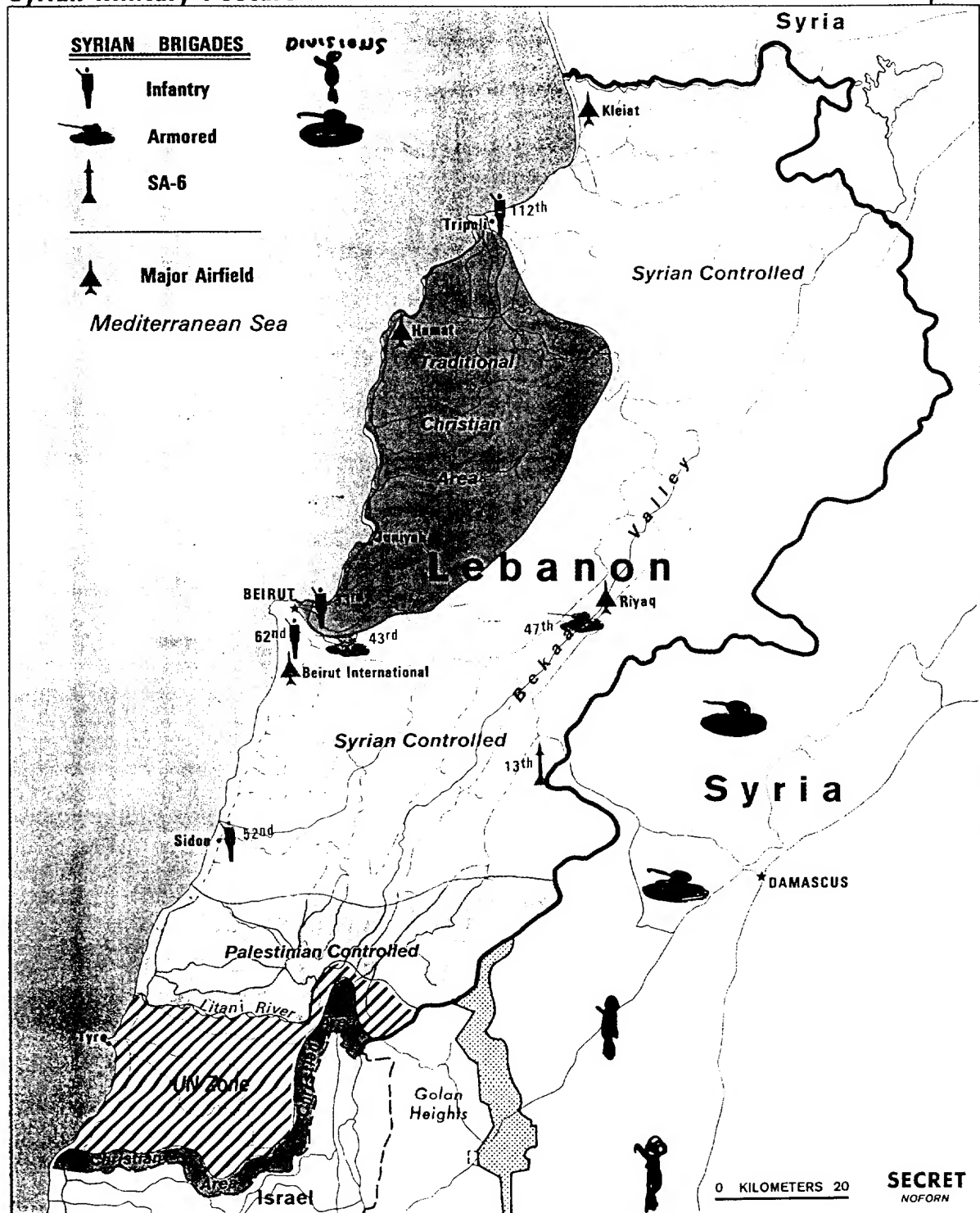
Not much can do

Lebanon: Population Distribution By Religion



Syrian Military Posture in Lebanon

Map 1



623847 7-78 CIA

ILLEGIB

Approved For Release 2003/12/03 : CIA-RDP81B00401R002800020021-0

Approved For Release 2003/12/03 : CIA-RDP81B00401R002800020021-0